

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 GAC-01 OMB-01 IO-12 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/138 W

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R 271215 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1850

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4900

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER ON POLICIES NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT

1. LAST NIGHT AT NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR' S DINNER I TALKED WITH
NEW ZEALAND MINISTER DEFENSE FAULKNER AND MR. ROBINSON WHO AC-
COMPANIED HIM. DISCUSSION GREW IN LARGE PART OUT OF MEETINGS THAT
THEY HAD HAD EARLIER THAT DAY WITH THAI OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRIME
MINISTER THANOM, DEPUTY PRIMIN PRAPASS, AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
CHARTCHAI AND HIS STAFF.

2. FAULKNER EMPHASIZED THAT CURRENT TRIP THROUGH THIS AREA,
DURING WHICH THEY WILL VISIT FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES, IS PRIMARILY
EFFORT TO GET ACQUAINTED AND SOUND OUT VIEWS OF THOSE COUNTRIES.
THEY FEEL NEW ZEALAND' S POSITION ON SEATO, REGIONAL SECURITY AND
OTHER MATTERS IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD PARTICULARLY BECAUSE PRESS
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HAS GIVEN IMPRESSION TO THE WORLD THAT NZ VIEWS CLOSELY APPROXIMATE THOSE OF AUSTRALIA UNDER WHITLAM. THEY PROFESS THAT THEY FOUND THAIS, ESPECIALLY CHARTCHAI, INITIALLY QUITE CRITICAL UNTIL THEY MANAGED TO PERSUADE THEM THAT NZ POLICY FOR EXAMPLE DID NOT WISH TO PRESS FOR DEPARTURE FROM THIS REGION OF US MILITARY OR DISSOLUTION OF SEATO.

3. WITH REGARD TO SEATO THEY LY MAINTAINED BY MEANS OF ROAD GRADERS AND ROAD DITCHES HAVE BEEN PERIODICALLY CLEARED.

3. LOAN 017:

A. CAPABILITY HONDURAN ADVISORY COMMISSION: REPLY--

WITH MINISTERIAL MANDATE TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION FROM PRE- SCHOOL TO POST SECONDARY IN ACCORDANCE UNESCO RECOMMENDED STREAM CONCEPT, HONDURAN COMMISSION BEGAN WORKING JANUARY 1972 AND FOR FIRST YEAR ESTABLISHED FIVE MAJOR TASKS: (1) PHYSICAL INVENTORY; (2) DIAGNOSTIC STUDY; (3) CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT; (4) SEMINARS ON REFORM PROGRAM; (5) REFORM OF EDUCATIONAL LAW AND ADMINISTRATION. AT END OF YEAR FIRST FOUR MAJOR TASKS WERE COMPLETED AND FIFTH WELL UNDER WAY. TWO SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 1972 WERE REVISION OF PRIMARY MATH STUDY PROGRAM UTILIZING NEW TEXTBOOKS, INCLUDING SEMINARS FOR ALL KEY SUPERVISORS, AND COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING OF NORMAL SCHOOL SYSTEM. COMMISSION ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING IDB VOCATIONAL PROJECT, WORLD BANK' S NORMAL SCHOOL PROJECT, ESCUELA SUPERIOR AND TEACHER TRAINING PROJECTS WITH THE REFORM WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND SAME COORDINATING GROUP IMPLEMENTING AID SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECT. THIS RESULTS IN INTEGRATED MULTILATERAL SECTORAL APPROACH IN EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE IDB AND WORLD BANK ARE ENTERING EDUCATION ARENA BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN CONVINCED OF COMPETENCE OF COMMISSION TO ACHIEVE EDUCATIONAL REFORM OBJECTIVES.

B. DELAYS IN PROJECT DESIGN AND SITE SELECTION: REPLY--

(1) DELAYS IN SELECTION OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SITES IS PROBLEM WHICH EXISTED TWO ADMINISTRATIONS REMOVED AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS CAUSED IN PART BY LEGAL DELAYS IN ACQUIRING TITLE AND COMMITMENTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES (WATER, ELECTRICITY, ACCESS ROADS, ETC.). THIS PROBLEM

NO LONGER EXISTS. MINISTRY ENGINEERS CONSTANTLY MEETING WITH LOCAL CIVIC GROUPS TO ASSURE TIMELY PREPARATION OF SITES. FOUR SCHOOLS WERE STARTED IN 1972, AND FIVE PLANNED FOR 1973. ENGINEER AND OTHER MEMBERS COORDINATING TEAM ARE NOW WORKING ON SITE PREPARATION FOR SCHOOLS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN 1974.

(2) THE PROBLEM OF PROJECT DESIGN AND OVER DESIGN ALSO IS HISTORICAL. IN CY 1972 THE GOH ANNOUNCED AN AUSTERITY PROGRAM AND MINISTRY RECEIVED BUDGETARY CUTS. THIS, COUPLED WITH STEADILY RISING CONSTRUCTION COSTS CREATED NEED FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION ALTERNATIVES IN ORDER MAXIMIZE AID RESOURCES AND BUILD MORE SCHOOLS. WITH SOLE EXCEPTION PUERTO CORTEZ SCHOOL VISITED BY IGA DESIGN OF SCHOOLS ALREADY UNDERWAY WAS MODIFIED AND TECHNIQUES OF CONSTRUCTING COLUMNS, SLABS AND WATER TANKS CHANGED, THEREBY PRODUCING 12-15 PERCENT SAVINGS. SECOND SOLUTION WAS REDESIGN OF OTHER 12 SCHOOLS TO BE CONSTRUCTED, AND REDESIGN WILL REDUCE COST OF CONSTRUCTION BY ABOUT 40 PERCENT. CHANGES THE MINISTRY EFFECTED IN SCHOOLS IN CONSTRUCTION AND REDESIGN OF OTHER TWELVE SCHOOLS RESOLVES PROBLEM OF OVER- DESIGN.

C. DEOBLIGATION: REPLY--

SEE TEGUCIGALPA 0955.

UNCLASSIFIED

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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